

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

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WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS AIRCRAFT 86970 FOR DEP ASST SEC DUBBS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM NEW DELHI DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

DW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2100

US PASS DELEGATION TO FUNERAL OF INDIAN PRESIDENT

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OTRA

SUBJECT: INDIAN PLANS FOR FUNERAL

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS STILL MAKING PLANS FOR
PRESIDENT AHMED'S FUNERAL AND THEREFORE NO SCHEDULE IS
YET FIRM ASIDE FROM THAT FOR THE FUNERAL ITSELF AT 4 P.M.
I HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WHO HAS GIVEN
ME THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE PLANS:

A. DURING THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, PROBABLY
AT 10 A. M., REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WILL
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BE EXPECTED TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT
AHMED, WHO WILL BE LYING IN STATE AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN
(THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE).

B. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO PAY A CALL ON THE PRIME
MINISTER LATER IN THE MORNING OR EARLY AFTERNOON BUT
THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID IT WOULD BE MUCH PREFERABLE THAT
THIS BE DONE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14. HE ASSUMED DELEGATIONS

WOULD REMAIN IN DELHI UNTIL MONDAY.

C. THE FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PARLIAMENT STREET MOSQUE OPPOSITE PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN NEW DELHI. FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE BURIAL GROUNDS THERE. AS THE MOSQUE IS QUITE SMALL, ATTENDANCE WILL BE RESTRICTED AND SEATING WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. BECAUSE OF RESTRICTED SPACE AND ISLAMIC CUSTOM, THE ONLY WOMEN PRESENT WILL BE THOSE SERVING OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS, OF COURSE, MRS. GANDHI HERSELF AND MRS. CARTER (WE NEED GUIDANCE ON WHETHER WE SHOULD REQUEST SOME SPECIAL SEATING ARRANGEMENT WHICH WE ARE SURE CAN BE PROVIDED). THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT THE FUNERAL WILL BE SHORT (WE ARE SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL OF THIS) AND WILL LAST UNTIL DUSK (APPROXIMATELY 1745).

D. LATER IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 13, THE ACTING PRESIDENT MAY REPEAT MAY RECEIVE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AS A GROUP.

2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY INQUIRED REGARDING HOW LONG MRS. CARTER PLANNED TO STAY. HE OBVIOUSLY HOPED THAT SHE WOULD REMAIN IN DELHI ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, SO THAT SHE COULD CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER WUNDER RELAXED CIRCUMSTANCES THEN. I WOULD HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR DELEGATION TO REMAIN OVER FOR AT LEAST PART OF FEBRUARY 14, PERHAPS LEAVING THAT EVENING.

3. WE ARE PROMISED A DETAILED SCHEDULE LATER IN THE DAY AND WILL TRANSMIT IT AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED. SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANNING AND COORDINATION ARE BEING CONDENSED INTO SUCH A SHORT TIME, THERE MAY BE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SET FORTH ABOVE.SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE VANCE

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